

Name: _____

DIAGNOSTIC TIMED WRITING: don't freak out...it won't be graded (promise 😊)

You will have 45 minutes to write an essay in response to one of the following topics. Your essay should include an introduction, a strong and thoughtful thesis, several body paragraphs that are focused by topic sentences and developed appropriately, and a brief conclusion. Please do any pre-writing (brainstorming, outlining, listing, etc.) on this sheet, and be sure to hand in this sheet with your completed essay.

Remember, this test is not graded; I will, however, assign points for putting an effort into writing this essay and completing it. If you put forth a good effort, you will get full points. I use these essays to help me design the course to better meet your needs as student writers, so getting an accurate picture of your strengths and weaknesses as writers is important to you as a student and us as a whole class. I can only get an accurate picture if you put forth your best effort—so please do. Also, this is your first chance to get feedback on your writing from me and your first chance to practice for the departmental timed writing tests you will take later in the semester. Put some hard, honest work into it.

Topic Choice 1:

Living in another country can be exciting. However, sometimes the differences between various cultures might make it hard for people to adjust. Discuss some problems that Americans might face if they spend an extended period of time in your country. Provide convincing examples and details. Be sure to support your ideas with specific explanations and relevant details.

Topic Choice 2:

In recent decades, the average age of marriage has been increasing. In a well-developed essay, illustrate the advantages and/or disadvantages of getting married at an older age (late twenties to early thirties) as opposed to a younger age (late teens or early twenties). Be sure to support your ideas with specific explanations and relevant details.

REMEMBER TO HAND THIS SHEET IN WITH YOUR COMPLETED ESSAY!